



Mendocino County Farm Bureau

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Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

November 5, 2009

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
C/O California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attention: NCRSG Nominations

RE: North Coast Study Region MPA Stakeholder Group

To whom it may concern,

The Mendocino County Farm Bureau (MCFB) would like to submit a letter of recommendation for Tom Estes to be considered for appointment to the North Coast Study Region MPA Stakeholder Group.

Tom Estes is actively involved with MCFB where he currently holds the executive position of First Vice President and has proved to be a valuable resource for ocean fisheries information. Tom has been involved with the commercial fishing industry since 1967 and only recently passed the captains position on the family owned fishing vessel over to his eldest son. This transition will allow him to devote adequate time to the North Coast Study Region MPA Stakeholder Group if so appointed.

In regards to additional experience with the MPA process, Tom previously served on the North Central Coast Region MPA Stakeholder Group where he provided knowledge in relation to commercial and recreational fishing. With his background in the commercial fishing business, Tom has extensive familiarity in the waters from Point Arena to the Oregon border and would be a worthy addition to the North Coast Study Region MPA Stakeholder Group.

The sport and commercial fishing industries are important to the economy along the coastal areas of Mendocino County. The jobs that are provided as well as the related tourist dollars spent are critical to the wellbeing of coastal communities such as Mendocino or Fort Bragg. Mendocino County has traditionally been a resource bases county and MCFB would like to see this tradition remain strong. For this reason, MCFB would like to support Tom Estes and encourage you to consider him for an appointment to the North Coast Region MPA Stakeholder Group.

Sincerely,

Mike Anderson, President

Contact Information for North Coast Study Region MPA Stakeholder Group Nominee, Tom Estes

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